

**California Partnership for the San Joaquin Valley
San Joaquin County Public Forum
Lodi, CA – June 9, 2006**

Panel Presenters

Kevin Huber – Grupe Company and San Joaquin Partnership Board Member

- The California Partnership for the San Joaquin Valley (Partnership) should focus on two areas of agricultural business: food processing and bio-tech
 - Food processing can provide money and sustainable jobs to the San Joaquin Valley (Valley)
 - The Valley has the agricultural resources to lead the nation in bio-tech
 - Renewable energy should be the focus of bio-tech studies
- Infrastructure
 - Improvements to Highway 99 are necessary
- Matching funds for education is necessary
 - The State needs to match local dollars for education development

Mayor Ed Chavez – City of Stockton

- Methamphetamines continue to plague the Valley
 - The Valley needs state funds to help solve the problem
 - The Valley needs to focus on programs that emphasize family strength as a solution to the methamphetamine problem
- Gangs are another problem issue for the Valley
 - The Valley needs to consider gang prevention programs

Gordon Palmer – Stockton City Manager

- The Partnership should consider assisting San Joaquin County in developing the Arch-Sperry corridor
 - It is an expensive project but it will help move goods in and out of the airport and port
- Levees need repair
 - The local governments in the Valley don't have the resources to repair the levee system
 - They need State and/or Federal assistance
- Enterprise Zones are essential to Stockton's financial and business success
 - The Enterprise Zone for Stockton expires in 2008 and it should be renewed

Luis Sanchez – Vice President Washington Mutual

- Affordable housing is a problem for Valley residents
 - A substantial percentage of Valley residents cannot afford a mid-priced home
 - If the State provides incentives to the private sector, the private sector can provide incentives to people wanting to purchase a home
 - The State should provide tax credits to those who fall outside government assistance

Ken Cohen – Administrator San Joaquin General Hospital

- The Valley counties need to work together to find common ground for solving health care problems in the region
 - They should find at least 6 ideas to common health care problems
 - Areas of focus should be funding for hospitals, nurses, nursing schools and a regional system of care
- The Valley problems won't be solved by taking from other parts of the State
 - The State should provide extra money to the region

Dr. Moses Elam – Physician in Chief Kaiser Permanente

- Solving the problems of the Valley has two components: strategic thinking and strategic action
- Health care and a healthy economy are closely related
 - Healthy people equal a healthy workforce which equals a healthy economy
 - When people are unemployed, people are uninsured – thus, a healthy workforce is compromised
- Solutions to the problems
 - Invest in schools
 - More funding for teachers
 - Get people back to work faster

David Berg – Human Services for the San Joaquin County

- Methamphetamine addiction is a Valley problem
 - There needs to be an increase in treatment facilities
 - The Valley needs sustained funding for proactive solutions

Phyllis Grupe – Community Partnership for Families

- Three reasons why businesses won't locate in the Valley:
 - Poor health and education
 - Crime and violence
 - Water issues
- Two community programs that can help Valley residents:
 - Patch – a community service group that helps find services to those in need
 - Poor residents lack resources to find social service programs
 - Patch can help facilitate this research
 - Way To Grow – school readiness program
 - This can help kids that lack the resources or family support to prepare for school.
- The key to implementing these programs is finding leaders in the community and neighborhoods
 - Leaders can identify children that need help and get them to the programs

Carol Ornelas – President ACLC

- The income range for most Stockton residents is \$47,000 - \$58,000
 - These incomes are not enough to afford housing in the area
- One goal for the Partnership should be affordable housing
 - People should not have to commute; they should be able to live close to work

Mark Martinez – President Mexican American Chamber of Commerce

- Reported on Hispanic businesses in the Community
 - Hispanic businesses are growing
 - 4 out of 5 jobs are created from local businesses
 - Immigration laws affect businesses at peak season
 - Up to 1/3 of workforce maybe displaced by immigration laws
 - This will directly impact business profits
- Enterprise Zones are vital to the health of businesses in the Valley

Dennis Lee – President Central Valley Asian Chamber of Commerce

- The State should provide small business growth by providing incentives

Trevor Atkinson – Common Ground

- Plan for growth by defining limits of growth
- Preserve agricultural land and create high density living environments for Valley downtown areas

Dr. Mick Founts – San Joaquin Office of Education

- Increase funding for vocational education
- Allow flexibility for local school finances
- Increase funding for inadequately funded mandates

Bill Huyett – Superintendent Lodi Unified School District

- The State needs to fulfill funding commitments for schools
- There is a crisis in the teaching community
 - The average age for teachers is 52; the number of people seeking teaching credentials is decreasing
 - There needs to be more incentives to pursue a career in teaching

Kathy Janssen – President Ace Tomato Company

- Expand the California Grown program
- Increase inspections at the border
- The minimum wage should be at federal standards
- Increase funding for vocational education programs

Brad Lange – Owner Lange Twins, Inc.

- Processing plants are essential to agricultural success
 - More processing plants need to be built closer to agricultural areas

Dr. Mel Lylte – Water Resources Coordinator, San Joaquin County

- Water problems in the Valley are numerous
 - There needs to be a regional plan to fix the problems

Other Water Issues

- Regulation standards for water need to be reevaluated
- Request federal funding for mandates
- Water issues need to be resolved efficiently